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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	China	REPORT NO.	
SUBJECT	Food Shortages, Kwangtung and Kwangsi and Relief Measures	DATE DISTR.	5 November 1953
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1. In late May there was an acute food shortage in Wuchow (N 23-28, E 111-19) and in surrounding villages. In one week, 4,000 people came to the city looking for work so that they could buy food.
2. In Huiyang Hsien, Kwangtung, there was an acute shortage of food which had existed since March because of flood damage to the plantations.¹ In early June the Huiyang Hsien Government ordered all rice storage warehouses to distribute rice for famine relief. The people eligible for relief were divided into several classes, with hired farmers receiving three to five catties of relief rice per month. Purged landlords and other people regarded as undesirable persons by the government were not entitled to receive relief rice.

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1. Comment. An Associated Press dispatch from Hong Kong dated 5 June 1953 indicated that three large Kwangtung rivers were flooding and that, according to reports from the mainland, a serious flood-famine crisis was anticipated in South China.

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